

By STUART EARP; Barking 1, Wycombe Wanderers 3

TONY HORSEMAN, Wycombe Wanderers' prolific goalscorer for nearly a decade, went a long way to solving the Blues' problems on Saturday when he scored two fine goals to clinch the 'double' over Barking.

But apart from 'Bodger's' performance, there was plenty to cheer Wanderers manager Brian Lee, who spent the whole of the match prompting his players from the touch line. It was one of Wycombe's best displays of the season.

Considering the difficult conditions—cold and a heavy pitch—the Blues' football was excellent. First time passing with pinpoint precision split Barking time and again while their use of the long ball in the later stages had the home side in more trouble.

For much of this season, Wycombe have been producing the football but not the finishing. Tony Horseman changed all that.

However, it was not only Horseman's ability to put the ball into the net that caught the eye. His all-round game was far more workmanlike, playing a deeper role than usual and covering back when Barking pressed.

The action started from the second minute when Gwynne Walters, Barking's scorer in their 2-1 defeat at Loakes Park last month, forced keeper O'Brien to save well from Steve Shorey's cross. Wycombe's reply was quick—and deadly.

In only the fourth minute they won two corners on the right. From the second Barking cleared the ball but only as far as Keith Jameson who sent over a first time cross. John Delaney was up well and headed the ball down to Horseman to push home for a well worked goal.

Barking were desperately unlucky two minutes later not to be on level terms. A poor clearance from Dave Bullock sliced across the penalty area to Walters who turned and sent in

a cross shot which beat O'Brien all the way. It seemed a certain equaliser but the ball thudded against one upright ran across to the other and came out again.

The near miss certainly shook Wycombe, who came back with a Keith Searle effort that whistled just over the bar. A minute later a measured through ball from Horseman caught the Barking defence totally square. Tony Amos used his speed to race ahead but after he had made 30 yards keeper Terry Dickinson partially blocked his shot and Amos' resulting overhead effort was cleared.

With Delaney playing target man Vic Cogger out of the game completely, Barking's attack was severely blunted.

Johnny Hutchinson again showed a marked improvement in midfield while Pritchard and Jameson set up some neat raids with accurate passing. Barking relied heavily on centre-half Peter Anderson, who with 'keeper Dickinson, impressed at Loakes Park.

Just when Wanderers seemed to be taking a one-goal lead back into the changing rooms with them, Barking pulled back with a great goal from top-scoring Bobby Page in the 43rd minute. From a free kick the ball was only partially cleared and Page, on the edge of the area, sent a crushing drive wide of O'Brien, on the turn.

After the interval Barking went all out for the lead in the first ten minutes with Billy Adkins going close. A quick break upfield in the 55th minute, however, changed the game completely. Horseman forced his way through with a fine run and was only just foiled near the line before Larry Pritchard put Wycombe 2-1 ahead. From

a free kick Barking stood motionless, waiting for an off-side decision as Pritchard ran on to the clearance. His first shot struck Dickinson but went over the 'keeper's body and Larry ran on to slot the ball into an empty net.

A minute later, Amos blazed a flick-on from Horseman narrowly wide with only Dickinson to beat and then Horseman forced Dickinson to dive at his feet after Searle had created another chance.

Both chances were created by intelligent use of the long ball, laid off perfectly to create scoring positions. Keith Jameson, who opened his account for Wycombe at Hitchin last week, almost made it two when John Albion was slow to clear, Keith's powerful drive going fractionally past the post.

But Wanderers — and Tony Horseman — were not to be denied. Sheer determination brought Bodger his second goal when he won possession 30 yards from the Barking goal. Passing one defender, he battled his way past another before beating the 'keeper in vintage style.

Although Cogger began to beat Delaney in the closing minutes, Barking wasted many of the opportunities through poor use of the ball. Three intended crosses went behind the goal and their only chance fell to Walters, but O'Brien got down well to his low shot.

BARKING: T. Dickinson, A. Butcher, M. Bennett, M. Boreman, P. Anderson, J. Albion, W. Adkins, R. Page, V. Cogger, G. Walters, S. Shorey, sub. B. Spragg (not used).

WYCOMBE: K. O'Brien, I. Rundle, D. Bullock, G. Olson, J. Delaney, K. Jameson, J. Hutchinson, L. Pritchard, K. Searle, A. Horseman, A. Amos, sub. D. Gamblin (not used).

Half time: 1-1.

Goalscorers: Wycombe—Horseman 2 (4, 73), Pritchard (55). Barking—Walters (43).